

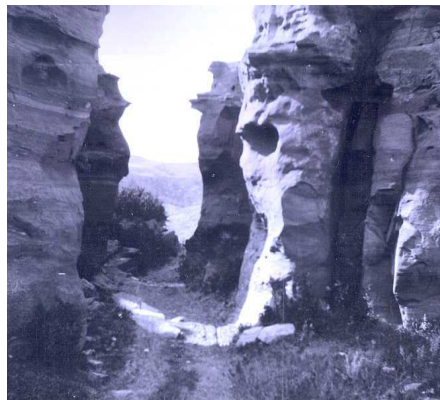
# RILEY PASS INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 30, 2009

THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE USED BY THE USDA FOREST SERVICE TO KEEP INTERESTED PARTIES INFORMED OF THE RECLAMATION WORK THAT WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE RILEY PASS SITE.

## NEW ON-SCENE-COORDINATOR ASSIGNED

Mary Beth Marks was designated as the On-Scene-Coordinator (OSC), in compliance with the requirements for the National Contingency Plan for removal actions at the Riley Pass Uranium Site (Site) on July 7, 2008. Ms. Marks is the Mineral Program Manager for the Gallatin National Forest and Minerals Staff Officer for the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. Ms. Marks has extensive experience with reclamation of both active and inactive mine sites. Ms. Marks has also served as the OSC on various mine cleanup projects and has vast knowledge on these processes. If there are any questions regarding the Riley Pass Project, please contact Mary Beth at 406.587.6709.



Riley Pass—North Cave  
Hills 1912  
Dakota National Forest-  
Sioux Ranger District

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New On Site Coordinator (OSC) assigned*
- *Tronox Bluffs Sites VS. NON-Tronox Bluffs Sites*
- *Tronox files Chapter 11 Bankruptcy*
- *On-going Forest Service Sediment Pond Clean up*
- *Reclamation on determined Non-Tronox Bluff Sites*
- *Map of labeled bluff sites on page 3*

## TRONOX BLUFFS VS. NON-TRONOX BLUFFS

The Riley Pass Uranium mines are located on 250 acres of the North Cave Hills region approximately 25 miles north of Buffalo, SD. The site consists of twelve mined bluffs labeled "A" through "L" (map on third page). In 1996, the Custer National Forest began working at the Riley Pass site under their Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) authority. The Forest Service and Office of General Council determined that Tronox, LLC (formally known as Kerr McGee or Kermac) was the potentially responsible party (PRP) for site reclamation of six of the twelve Bluff mine sites. Tronox signed an Administrative Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement) for Bluffs B, C, D, E, G, and H. The remaining Non-Tronox bluffs have no viable PRP. The Forest Service plans to conduct the removal actions on the Non-Tronox bluffs. Millennium Science and Engineering (MSE) of Salt Lake City, Utah is under contract with the Forest Service to develop a reclamation plan for Non-Tronox Bluffs.

## TRONOX, LLC. FILES CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

During the summer and fall of 2008, Tronox failed to keep up with the work schedule it had previously agreed upon. The company claimed it was experiencing significant financial challenges. This caused major delays in the project, including the sediment control needed onsite. In October, 2008, Tronox informed the Forest Service that it was stopping all work on the project, in violation of the consent order it signed the previous year. In January 2009, Tronox filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Tronox informed the On-Scene-Coordinator at that time that all work would cease pending Chapter 11 reorganization. The USFS is working with USDA Office of General Council (OGC), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to work through the Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Additionally these agencies are working together to identify any other viable potentially responsible parties for the Site. During Tronox's Chapter 11 reorganization, the Forest Service will conduct any necessary maintenance work. The USFS is working in partnership with OGC and DOJ in order to ensure that expenses incurred by the United States Government at the Riley Pass Site are compensated in the future.

## USFS ONGOING WORK REGARDING SEDIMENT POND CLEAN-UP



Dragline excavator being used in sediment pond clean – up.

The removal of material from sediment retention ponds is one of the projects the Forest Service is conducting during the Tronox Chapter 11 reorganization. In 1989, The USFS built five sediment ponds to trap sediment coming off of Bluff B. Three of the five ponds were cleaned in 2004. Currently, Baranko Brothers, Inc. of Dickinson, ND is cleaning out the five sediment ponds under contract to the Forest Service. As of this date, sediment from Ponds one, two and three has been removed. Early snow in October has delayed the work. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-November, although weather delays may affect this completion date.

## ON-GOING WORK ON NON-TRONONX BLUFF SITES

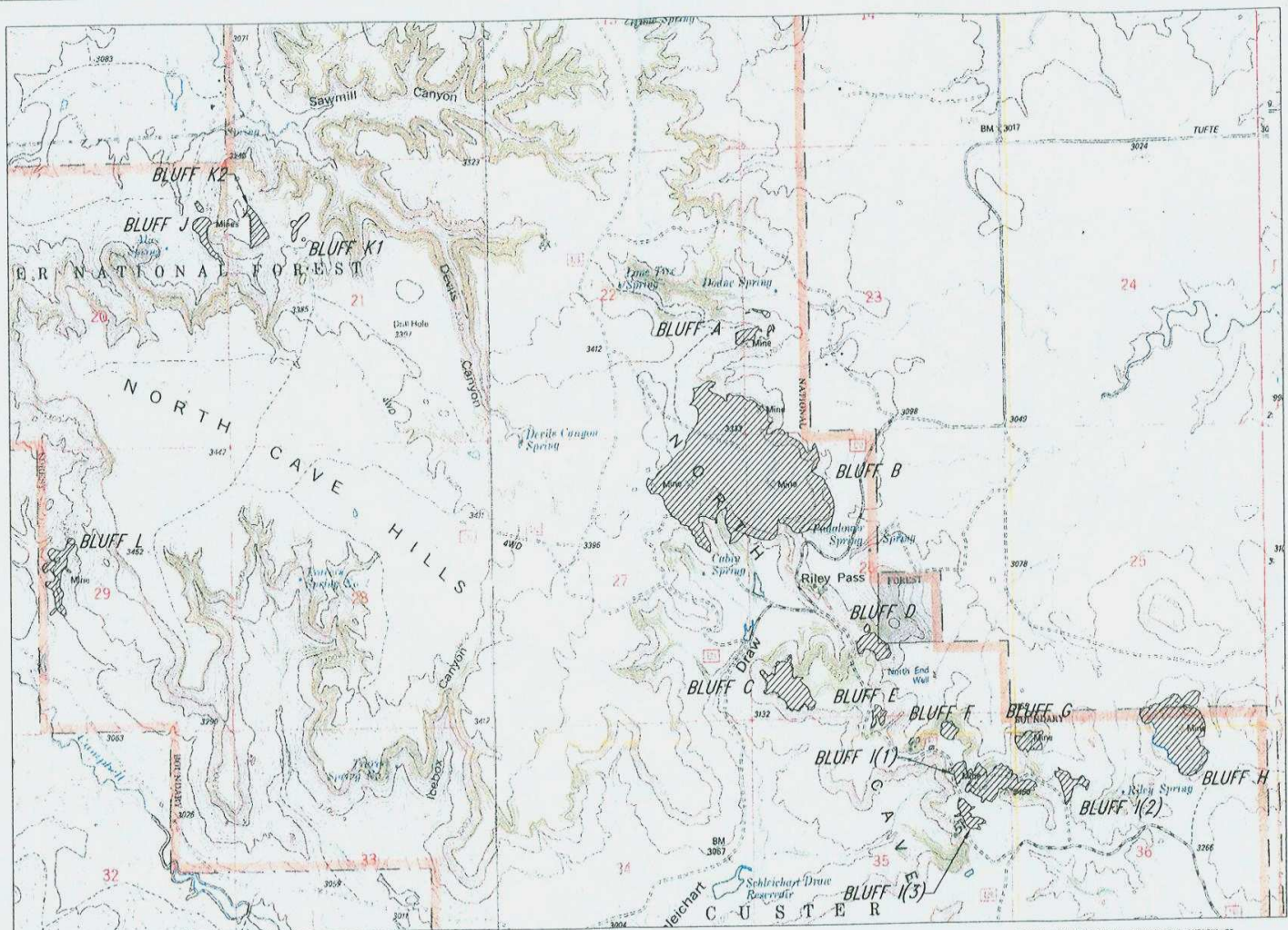
The USFS has contracted with Millennium Science and Engineering, Inc. (MSE), based out of Salt Lake City, UT, for the reclamation design of Bluff Sites A, F, I, J, and K. Site investigation work helped the Forest Service determine that no response action is needed at Bluff L. These six Bluffs are the Non-Tronox Sites which do not have a PRP. The conceptual approach to the reclamation of these bluffs is to consolidate and cover contaminated material into select areas, stabilize mine spoils that are highly erosive and revegetate all disturbed areas. Construction work on the road access and reclamation of some of these bluffs is expected to be started in 2010.

An email mailing list will be compiled for this project. To be added to the Riley Pass email mailing list, please contact [mmarks@fs.fed.us](mailto:mmarks@fs.fed.us). If you do not have computer access, please let Mary Beth know that you would like to continue to receive mailings hard copy.

# Riley Pass Uranium Mine Bluff Sites

## Labeled (A) - (L)

HYDRA/VMAL ETECA-OCT 2005/ETECA/RILEY-ETECA-2-1.06

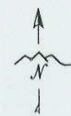


SOURCE: 7.5' USGS QUADS: LADNER SE & LUDLOW, SD



SITE LOCATION

WASTE SOURCE BLUFF  
ACCESS ROAD



**PIONEER**  
TECHNICAL SERVICES, INC.

FIGURE 2-1  
RILEY PASS SITE  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
BLUFF IDENTIFICATION MAP  
SCALE: 1"=2000'  
DATE: 10/3/06